

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising computer readable program code means stored therein for performing in a computer system a method for providing an online collaborative environment for at least one user at a user information processing device, said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) automatically creating an instance of an online meeting, ~~the instance~~ including creating a graphical display of ~~graphically displayed~~ separate meeting phases[[,]] and an agenda of the meeting's phases and making the graphical display of the online meeting instance available to a plurality of users each at a user information processing device;
 - b) receiving input from at least one user;
 - c) depicting participating users in respective meeting phases of said instance and depicting user input in a graphical representation including a set of objects for showing updated meeting information on said graphical display; and
 - d) forwarding said graphical display ~~representation~~ to all participating users ~~said at least one user~~ for display and user access at each ~~the~~ user information processing device and

providing real-time updating of said graphical display.

2. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of automatically determining if all meeting phases have been completed;

if all meeting phases have been completed,
terminating the meeting instance;

if all meeting phases have not been
completed, repeating steps b) - d) until all
phases specified in said agenda are completed.

3. (previously presented) The article according to claim 2, wherein said method further comprises detecting user meeting activity and comparing detected user meeting activity to at least one predefined criterion and wherein the step of depicting includes an indication of said at least one user's activity, based on the comparison of said activity with the criterion.

4. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said user input is selected from the group comprising a query, a response, a text comment, and a task specification, said method further comprising storing the user input as stored input and wherein said representation includes a handle to said stored input, which can later be used at said user information processing device to retrieve said input.

5. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises providing a dynamic determination of the next active meeting phase based on at least one of results and analysis of at least one of user input and activity in at least one previous meeting phase.

6. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said at least one user is assigned a role and the type of input and associated phase in which input can be given is restricted by the role.

7. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein an active phase of said meeting is emphasized in a visual representation of the meeting viewable at the user information processing device.

8. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said method further comprises steps of:

identifying a transition from one meeting phase to an earlier phase in said agenda;

providing at least one of a graphic representation of a meeting loop for display at a user information processing device and of one or more interactions of a given loop; and

providing user-accessible control features in said graphic representation for enabling said at least one user to review an earlier iteration of said loop.

9. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said representation includes both graphic and text section and where the content of said text section is

automatically adjusted to match user selection of the point of focus in the graphic section.

10. (previously presented) The article according to claim 9, wherein the method further comprises showing in said graphic section an indication of at least one user visiting a previous or future meeting phase based on at least one of user input or user activity at the graphical representation.

11. (previously presented) The article according to claim 9, including means for setting status of objects in said graphic representation to one or more of:

Open/Locked;

New Information/Seen;

Glitter/No Glitter.

12. (currently amended) A system for providing an instance of an online collaborative meeting for at least one user, the system comprising:

a) a database that provides persistent access to data;

b) a server that enables the creation of an instance of an agenda driven meeting and that receives all meeting inputs, automatically tracks and graphically displays separate phases of said meeting and graphically depicts users viewing respective meeting phases, logs said inputs in said database, updates a

~~representation~~ graphical display of said meeting instance based on user input, and forwards the graphical display ~~representation~~ to said at least one user and provides real-time updates to said graphical display; and

c) a graphical user interface accessible to at least one client enabling said at least one user to enter an input and to receive, view display of, and interact with said representation.

13. (previously presented) The system according to claim 12, wherein the server is a web-portal and said receiving and forwarding is performed using the HTTP protocol.

14. (previously presented) The system according to claim 13, further comprising an archiving component for creating an archive version of the completed meeting instance.

15. (previously presented) The system according to claim 12, wherein the representation of a meeting instance display at said graphical user interface further comprises:

a retrieval feature for said at least one user to retrieve said meeting archive; and

a replay feature allowing said at least one user to replay said meeting instance, said replay including at least one of the instances' phases.

16. (currently amended) A method for providing in a computer system an online collaborative environment for at least one user at a user information processing device, comprising the steps of:

a) automatically creating an instance of an online meeting, ~~the instance~~ including creating a graphical display of ~~graphically displayed~~ separate meeting phases~~[[,]]~~ and an agenda of the meeting's phases and making the graphical display of the online meeting instance available to a plurality of users, each at a user information processing device;

b) receiving input from at least one user;

c) depicting participating users in respective meeting phases of said instance and depicting user input in a graphical representation including a set of objects for showing updated meeting information on said graphical display; and

d) forwarding said graphical display representation to said at least one user for display and user access at the user information processing device and providing real-time updating of said graphical display.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising steps of:

automatically determining if all meeting phases have been completed;

if all meeting phases have been completed, terminating the meeting instance;

if all meeting phases have not been completed, repeating steps b) - d) until all phases specified in said agenda are completed.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprises detecting user meeting activity and comparing detected user meeting activity to at least one predefined criterion and wherein the step of depicting includes an indication of said at least one user's activity, based on the comparison of said activity with the criterion.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said user input is selected from the group comprising a query, a response, and a task specification, said method further comprising storing the user input as stored input and wherein said representation includes a handle to said stored input, which can later be used at said user information processing device to retrieve said input.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of providing a dynamic determination of the next active meeting phase based on at least one of results and analysis of at least one of user input and activity in at least one previous meeting phase.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said at least one user is assigned a role and wherein said method further comprises restricting the type of input and associated phase in which input can be given by the role.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein an active phase of said meeting is emphasized in a visual representation of the meeting viewable at the user information processing device.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising steps of:

identifying a transition from one meeting phase to an earlier phase in said agenda;

providing at least one of a graphic representation of a meeting loop for display at a user information processing device and of one or more interactions of a given loop; and

providing user-accessible control features in said graphic representation for enabling said at least one user to review an earlier iteration of said loop.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said representation includes both graphic and text section and where the content of said text section is automatically adjusted to match user selection of the point of focus in the graphic section.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the method further comprises showing in said graphic section an indication of at least one user visiting a previous or future meeting phase based on at least one of user input or user activity at the graphical representation.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising setting status of objects in said graphic representation to one or more of:

Open/Locked;

New Information/Seen;

Glitter/No Glitter.

27. (currently amended) A method enabling a service organization to give a customer organization the ability to use Agenda-Driven Meetings, the method comprising ~~consisting of the following~~ steps of:

automatically determining whether the customer organization has the hardware and software required to host the Agenda-Driven Meeting service, including a customer location database;

determining meeting types that are useful for said customer organization;

automatically adding templates for creating meeting instances with graphically displayed separate meeting phases for said determined meeting types to said customer location database for permitting display of and user interaction with at least one meeting instance displayed at said customer location.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the service organization automatically providing at least one of upgrades and new templates useful to said customer.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein at least one of said upgrades and additions are provided by said service organization to said customer organization periodically.

30. (previously presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises enabling a given user to participate in a given instance of an online meeting either synchronously or asynchronously.